

How to Reach the Library of Michigan Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

By Phone: 517-373-5614 – Lansing area
1-800-992-9012 – toll free

By Fax: 517-373-5685
1-800-726-7323 – toll free

By Mail: 702 W. Kalamazoo St.
P.O. Box 30007
Lansing, MI 48909

In Person: Open 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Monday/Thursday and
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday

By E-Mail: sbph@michigan.gov On the Web: www.michigan.gov/sbph

Online Catalog: www.michigan.gov/odertalkingbooks

This new format of In Focus Newsletter was made possible by a grant from the Capital Region Community Foundation.

In Focus is available on cassette or in Braille. Call a reader advisor for more information.



FREE
MATTER
FOR THE
BLIND

Service for the Blind
and Physically Handicapped

702 W. Kalamazoo St.
Lansing, MI 48915

In Focus

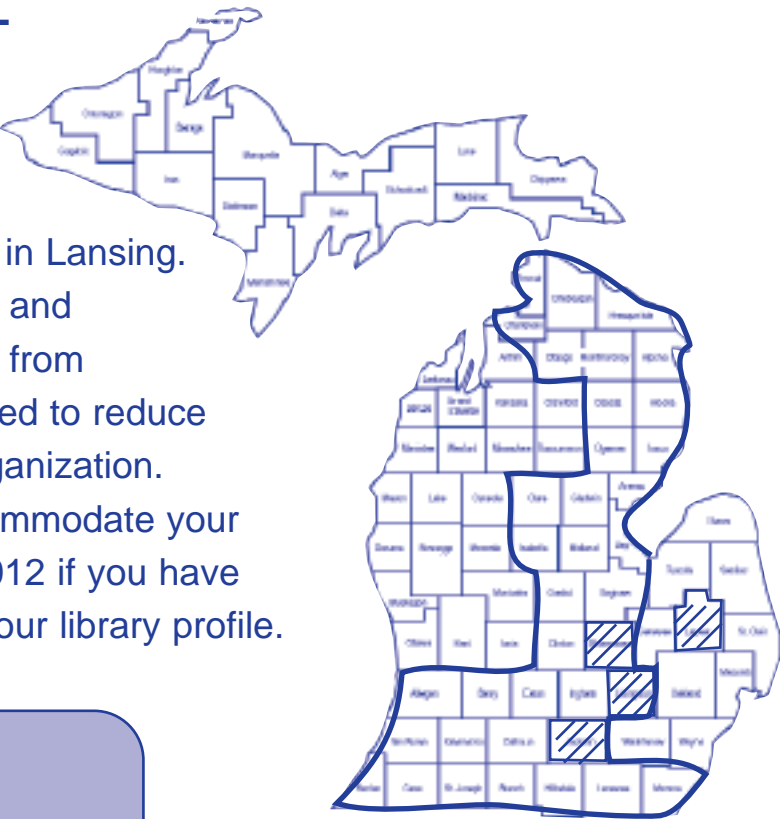
Winter 2009

News from the Library of Michigan Service for the Blind
and Physically Handicapped



Counties Added to SBPH
Service Area

A warm welcome goes to those 650 readers whose service was transferred recently to the Library of Michigan SBPH in Lansing. Residents of Lapeer, Livingston, Jackson and Shiawassee counties made the transition from sub-regional libraries that have been forced to reduce their service areas because of local reorganization. Lansing staff members are eager to accommodate your specific service needs. Call 1-800-992-9012 if you have questions or want to make a change to your library profile.



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Terminology Explained

Placing a title on hold or **reserve** puts your name in the queue with others waiting for the same title. Each time a copy of the reserved title is returned, it will ship to the name at the top of the list regardless of your service preference (on demand, send/return, weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly). You will receive the reserved title in addition to your normally scheduled selections.

Adding a book to your **request list** occurs each time you submit a list from Talking Book Topics whether you call, mail or e-mail it to us. If you are served automatically (send/return, weekly, bi-weekly or monthly), titles are selected from your request list. Popular titles on your list may not be available for quite a while unless you put them on reserve. (See **Reserve** above).

Reserve vs. Request

Staff Tip: If you've waited longer than two months for a book on reserve, ask your reader advisor to order it from another library through interlibrary loan.

Staff Tip: Always spell your last name and include the area code with your phone number if you leave a message. Our goal is to return your call on the same day!

The Library of Michigan Foundation gratefully recognizes the generosity and vision of those who have chosen to leave a legacy to the Library of Michigan through estate gifts to the ***Library of Michigan Foundation Legacy Society***. Enrollment in this honorary society is simply a matter of advising the Library of Michigan Foundation of the creation of a bequest in a will or other deferred gifts. For additional information, please contact Judith Moore, at 517-373-4470 or moorej10@michigan.gov, without obligation.



LIBRARY OF
MICHIGAN
FOUNDATION

The Library of Michigan Foundation is a non-profit organization which offers financial support to the Library of Michigan Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped program.

If you would like to receive future mailings and information from the Library of Michigan Foundation, please sign below and return to:
Library of Michigan Foundation • P.O. Box 30159 • Lansing, MI 48909.

Check for further information:

☐ Gifts and bequests ☐ Named Endowed Funds ☐ I have included you on my will

☐ Here is a gift of \$_____ to help enhance the SBPH program

Signature of Applicant: _____

For additional information, please contact Executive Director Judith Moore, at 517-373-4470, without obligation.

The Dangers of Not Having a Will

By Judith K. Moore, Executive Director, Library of Michigan Foundation

If you leave this world without a valid will, you are said to die intestate. This means your assets will be distributed according to state law and your wishes won't matter. Instead of providing for those you would have liked to have helped the most, the law will distribute your estate for you. Your estate will be divided among your relatives according to a rigid, unchangeable legal formula. Nothing will go to the friends, charities or issues you cherish. If you have no living blood relatives, the state will confiscate all your property for the benefit of the state.

The best way to avoid having the state decide who is to receive your property is to have a valid will. There are also other significant benefits to having a will:

- You can appoint an executor (personal representative) whom you trust and who will pay close attention to your wishes and settle your estate promptly and economically.

- You can make special financial arrangements for family members who are minors, disabled or unfamiliar with money management.
- You can provide much-needed support for your favorite charities and organizations, such as the Library of Michigan, and gain recognition for your generosity.
- You can create an estate plan to minimize the taxes on your estate.
- You can appoint a guardian for your minor children.
- You can make sure your estate will be distributed among those individuals you care about.
- You can help avoid family misunderstandings.

To make sure your will accomplishes all you intend, seek the help of an attorney who specializes in estate planning. And please consider leaving the Library of Michigan Foundation a charitable bequest. Your future gift will make a lasting difference for the Library of Michigan and its ability to provide the highest level of service for future generations of Michigan residents.

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Calling All Computer Users

SBPH Computer Club 2009

The SBPH (Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped) Computer Club meets on the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon in the SBPH public service area on the first floor of the Library of Michigan, across from the elevators.

Computer Club Schedule:

Feb. 14: What's in your computer? Bob Blakes and Scott Norris will disassemble a desktop and show you what's inside.

March 14: MEE Inc, Lansing's local adaptive technology vendor, will demonstrate new note-takers and NetBraille books.

April 11: Discover the world of low-cost screen readers. We will tour NVDA, SA to Go and thunder.

Membership is free. Call to register!
Scott Norris, Adaptive Technology Coordinator, 517-373-5516 or
snorris@michigan.gov.

Staff Tips

When ordering from the online catalog, www.michigan.gov/ordertalkingbooks, be sure to type in the number zero and not the letter "o" if it occurs in the last 2 digits of your patron I.D. (i.e. SMITHX00 not SMITHXOO)

Before shipping a faulty cassette player back, let us know that you need another machine. This will reduce the time you are left without a player and verifies that you do still want talking book service.

Volunteers Record Books of Local Interest

Local Recordings

Here are some interesting titles that you won't find in Talking Book Topics. These were recorded locally upon request from individual patrons. Enjoy!

LM8139 *J.P. McCarthy: Just Don't Tell 'Em Where I Am* by Michael Shiels, narrated by Richard Vogt

LM8150 *Happiness, the Better Choice* by Raymond Mercier, M.D. narrated by Marjorie Johnson

LM8152 *Meeting Jesus Again For the First Time* by Marcus J. Borg, narrated by Karen Glaser

LM8158 *The Conspiracy of Pontiac Vol 2* by Francis Parkman, narrated by Andy Andersen

LM8161 *Encyclopedia of Body Building* by Gerald Thorne and Phil Embleton, narrated by George Merva

LM8172 *Waiting for Home: a True Story of Strength and Survival* by John Schneider, narrated by Jill Irey

LM8173 *The Life and Legacy of Peter the Great: Famous Trotting Sire from Kalamazoo* by Terry Motycka, narrated by Richard Vogt

LM8174 *Everyday Leadership: Getting Results in Business, Politics, and Life* by Daniel Granholm Mulhern, narrated by Michael Donovan

LM8183 *Gerald R. Ford* by Douglas Brinkley, narrated by Richard Vogt

LM8185 *Focus on Leadership: Servant-Leadership for the Twenty-First Century* edited by Larry C. Sparks and Michele Lawrence, narrated by Michael Donovan

LM8186 *Weird Michigan: Your Travel Guide to Michigan's Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets* by Linda S. Godfrey, narrated by Richard Vogt

LM8195 *Foods That Cause You To Lose Weight* by Neil Barnard, narrated by Karen Glaser

LM8201 *Shooting Star: The Amazing Life of Ann Marston* by Alana Paluszewski, narrated by Nicole Leslie

LM8203 *Blind Man's Bluff!* by Geri Taeckens, narrated by Mary Hartshorn

LM8211 *Morgan Park: Duluth, U.S. Steel and the Forging of a Company Town* by Arnold R. Alanen, narrated by Andy Andersen.

LM8213 *Family Wealth: Keeping It In the Family* by James E. Hughes, Jr., narrated by Richard Vogt

LM8217 *Within Reach* by Barbara Delinsky, narrated by Karen Glaser

LM8218 *Mistaken Identity: Two Families, One Survivor, Unwavering Hope* by Don Van Ryn and Newell Cerak, narrated by Karen Glaser

LM8220 *Windows Vista For Dummies: Special Preview Edition* by Andy Rathbone (2006) narrated by Michael Donovan

LM8223 *Turning White: A Memoir of Change* by Lee Thomas, narrated by Michael Donovan

LM8229 *The Metz Fire of 1908* by Herbert Nagel, narrated by Michael Donovan

NFB-Newsline

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Newsline allows any blind or visually impaired person to listen to today's newspaper today, over the telephone, for free. As a subscriber to NFB-Newsline, you can read any newspaper or magazine available on this service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can choose the topic and articles of greatest interest to you, at the time and place of your choosing. Michigan newspapers from Detroit, Grand Rapids, Flint and Lansing are available, as well as major national publications such as the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. To subscribe, call your reader advisor at 1-800-992-9012.